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1971 ANNUAL REPORT
COLUMBIA LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

COLUMBIA LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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November 1971



Dear Friend:

Following is a brief pictorial report of the progress of the Lighthouse since 1954 when an intensive effort was initiated to improve and expand existing services, and to develop new services on an area-wide basis.

The total program which then served a very small number of blind adults now annually serves over 700 blind persons of all ages.

Ten years ago, 10 school age youngsters participated for a few weeks in a limited number of activities such as dancing and indoor games in the first summer program for children.

In 1971, over 90 metropolitan area blind children, pre-school through high school age, participated for eight weeks in a very broad range of activities, each designed to enable every youngster to take part and benefit according to his interests and abilities.

Services in 1954 consisted of the teaching of Braille. Now there are broad and intensive rehabilitation and social services to assist the blind individual to become oriented and adjusted to blindness, to restore his psychological security and to teach him the methodologies he needs to enable him to achieve the highest possible level of independence.

Blind residents of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia have benefitted from these services over the years.

In December, 1970 the Lighthouse was accredited by the National Accreditation Council for agencies serving the Blind and is among the first 25 of some 400 eligible agencies in the United States to earn this recognition.

This assures blind recipients of Lighthouse services, and you, as a contributor or potential contributor, that Lighthouse management, staff, facilities and program meet very high national standards and compare favorably with the best to be found anywhere.

The Lighthouse now faces a challenge to further expand programs and facilities. There surely is truth in the statement, "The better the program, the greater the demand for services."

The most pressing needs for the immediate future are for added space for workshop expansion and a comprehensive program of services for the geriatric blind to assist these older people to cope with the dual problems created by blindness and age.

ARTHUR JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Mr. J. Arthur Johnson, Executive Director of the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind presenting National Accreditation Council award to Mr. W. Baldwin Buchanan, President of the Lighthouse.

High priority also must be given to services for "homebound" blind persons who for various reasons cannot participate in existing services, and who can only be reached by bringing services to them.

We sincerely hope that this report will afford you, as a contributor, real pride in being an important member of the Lighthouse team, and that you will want to continue to assist us.

New contributors are warmly welcomed, and if this report is your first introduction to the Lighthouse and its programs, we invite you to consider joining the host of people in the Washington Metropolitan Area who have generously supported the Lighthouse and made it possible for so many worthwhile things to happen.

Arthur Johnson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

W Baldwin Buchanan

PRESIDENT

Facilities



This old house on H St., N.W., and its one thousand square feet of working space housed the old Polytechnic Institute for the Blind. The name was later changed to the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind.



The Lighthouse moved into this abandoned school building with 11,000 square feet of space which it rented from the District. Industrial activities were enlarged and it began to develop services reaching into all areas of the community.



A capital funds drive in 1957 bought the first and tallest of the four buildings on 14th Street now owned by the Lighthouse, and the over-crowded agency moved into 18,000 square feet of working space. Its rehabilitation center was enlarged to include clients from Maryland and Virginia as well as the District. A children's program was started, its industrial workshops increased in number and sophistication. Its staff and community services were upgraded to meet the needs of the community.

To meet the ever-increasing requests for services, this addition to our present facility is projected. It will increase our working area by 18,000 square feet and our parking area for staff and volunteers to 4,400 square feet.



Community Services and Rehabilitation



These two photos show Light-house instructors training newly blinded adults to do the things, blind, which they previously did as sighted persons.

Mobility

Mobility is the technique a blind person uses to get around by himself without the aid of a sighted guide. Mobility is the hook on which all good rehabilitation hangs. There are two kinds of independent mobility for blind people—the dog guide and the long cane.



These two photographs show the ease with which trained blind people may travel independently.

Children's Services

Swimming is one of the best ways of freeing a blind child in terms of motion. Originally we started with a small backyard pool in which multi-handicapped youngsters lost their fear of the water.



Graduating to the greater use of public pools and the loan of private pools, three different age groups of children learned water safety, to swim freely and to dive boldly from the diving board.



Beginning with the age old child's skipping rope, much progress can be made in natural motion.



The freedom of roller skating is another way of developing normalcy of motion and balance and its lots of fun too.



Whenever possible the sensitive area of training for mobility and future normal competition in a sighted world is accomplished by the use of games and sports. Bowling is excellent for this. The blind child learns to use a portable rail, measure the boards, listen for the pin fall and visualize those left for the next shot.



Because of the limitations imposed by the lack of sight a child's experience and value of spatial relationships are limited. Therefore the Lighthouse tries, with many field trips, to bring these experiences to the child's finger tips.

Communications



Braille, the standard reading and writing method for the blind, is a very complicated and difficult language. Its six dots capable of making sixty-three different combinations must be used in many forms to make a code for language, mathematics and music. This means that over 600 different short forms, abbreviations and contractions must be memorized. Above, both braille and tapes are being used in a Lighthouse class in languages, during its summer day camp program. Below, the Talking Book Machine is mostly used by adults for recreational reading. They are supplied free by the Library of Congress and the Lighthouse to all handicapped people who cannot read. Books for them are also free from 50 regional libraries throughout the country.

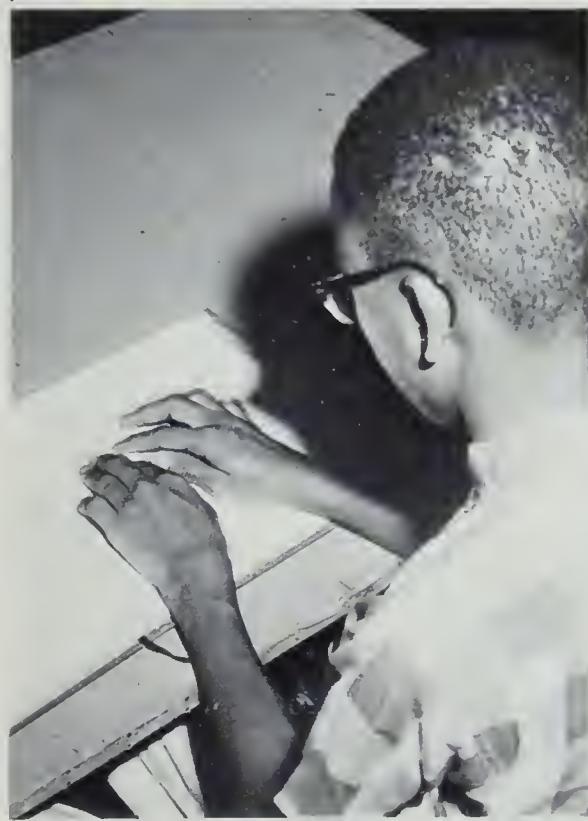




Hopefully, in the future, blind people will be able to read with an electronic scanning device which will translate any black print on white paper, into an audible tone. Above is the photograph of the first class of the Lighthouse in the use of the Visitoner, a scanning device which was developed by the Veterans Administration.

Braille is absolutely essential for the young blind child. It is the most important tool he has for education.

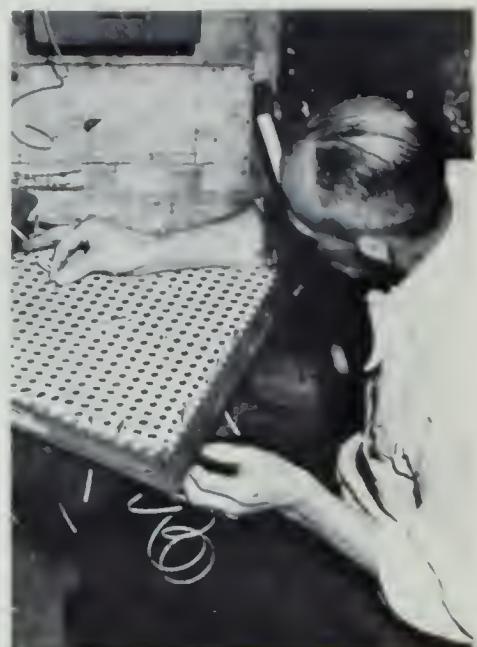
For those blind persons who can write, a Script Board keeps the lines straight and free of overlapping and the client may write as he did when he could see.



Industrial Activities



The necktie factory, started in 1964, has been so successful that supervisors from other sheltered shops in several cities have been trained here for this type of production.



The re-seating or caning of chairs is one of the traditional skills of the blind worker. At the Lighthouse three totally blind men re-seat about 1500 chairs a year.



From a small textile unit making mostly aprons we have grown and developed a sophisticated industrial unit producing almost 40 high quality household and gift items.



In this shop several kinds of brushes are made with the use of semi-automatic machines. Bath, bowl and vegetable brushes are made in nylon and Tampico and in many different colors.

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SOURCE AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1971

SOURCE:

Gross Revenue from Production Departments	\$ 568,592
Gross Revenue from Service Departments	105,817
Solicited Gifts	439,998
Bequests and Unsolicited Gifts	98,473
Income and Investments	14,313
Sundry	19,267
TOTAL	\$1,246,460

APPLICATION:

Costs and Expenses Other Than Depreciation and Amortization:

Production Departments	\$ 557,104
Service Departments	208,738
Fund Raising Department	175,110
Administrative and General	245,285
Purchase of Equipment and Furniture	22,323
Curtailment of Trust Notes	10,573
Increase in General Fund Capital	27,327
TOTAL	\$1,246,460

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